

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARCTIC MAN RACE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Man race, one of the most unique competitive events in winter sports. Combining downhill skiing, snowboarding, skijoring, and snowmachine racing, Arctic Man exemplifies Alaska's rugged outdoor spirit.

Every year, 13,000 spectators ride their snowmachines up to a magnificent alpine setting between Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, to watch this impressive spectacle. The race combines athleticism and horsepower as a two-man team, consisting of one downhill skier or snowboarder and one snowmachiner, navigate a perilous course at high speeds. With the firing of the starting pistol, athletes lunge down a 1,700 foot drop in less than two miles, without the aid of ski poles. As the skiers approach the bottom of the hill, they merge into a narrow canyon and grab a rope tethered to their partners' snowmachine to then be towed at speeds of up to 86 miles per hour for 2¼ miles uphill. This difficult intersection can decide the race, as the snowmachine must perfectly match the skier's or boarder's speed and course while also effectively getting the pull rope into the athlete's hand. Once the team reaches the top of the mountain, the skier or snowboarder releases the tow rope and is slingshotted down another 1,200 foot descent to slip through the gates at the finish line.

When these men and women mount the slopes, they exhibit an admirable model of aggressive athleticism and backcountry moxie to make this one of Alaska's most remarkable competitions. As this year's competitors prepare for the Arctic Man challenge, fine tuning their snowmachines, waxing their skis, and practicing their technique, I would like to wish them all good luck and a safe race!

I would also like to commend Arctic Man founder Howard Thies, whose bold idea for a high speed race in the Hoodoo Mountains has become a twenty-five year Alaskan tradition. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the many volunteers and organizers who have facilitated this race throughout the years. Without their hard work, this quintessential frontier gathering would not be possible.

Having attended this event before, I can attest that it is one of the most exciting and exhilarating competitions which I have ever witnessed. I look forward to joining my fellow Alaskans at this year's Arctic Man to celebrate its 25th year of competition.

SECURE FEDERAL FILE SHARING
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker and Chairman TOWNS, thank you for bringing this important legislation before the House today.

Less than a year ago, Chairman TOWNS and his staff worked to convene an Oversight and Government Reform hearing that I requested about the dangers posed by inadvertent file-sharing over open-network peer-to-peer file sharing software. I think it's safe to say we were all shocked by what we heard and saw at that hearing: information on the United States Secret Service safe house for first lady Michelle Obama; the names, addresses, and, in some cases, private information like Social Security numbers for men and women deploying to Afghanistan; as well as tax information for countless individuals. All of this information was on display for the world to see and all of it had been leaked as a result of inadvertent file sharing or theft over open-network peer-to-peer file sharing software.

Passing this bill is an important step in enacting common sense information security protections. This legislation will prohibit the software that has facilitated inadvertent file sharing and information theft from computers that have access to sensitive government information.

Not only important, this legislation is also timely. Last month, the Federal Trade Commission released findings from their investigation into inadvertent file sharing. Their conclusion supports this legislation and reaffirms what many of us have learned as a result of the committee's work: peer-to-peer file sharing software subjects millions of users to identity theft and other serious hazards.

The FTC is fulfilling its important role of protecting consumers by alerting consumers about stolen information, but I am concerned that their report does not pursue the one thing that all of the victims of inadvertent peer-to-peer file sharing have in common: the software itself. I urge the FTC to continue its work in this area and to look specifically at the providers of peer-to-peer software. The FTC has gone after those who use the software for harm, but they haven't spent enough time addressing those who develop this software—replete with security risks—for material gain. I look forward to future FTC investigation and possible action to address this ongoing problem.

Chairman TOWNS, thank you for working so hard to address this issue.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 26

9 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

APRIL 13

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street and the financial crisis, focusing on high risk home loans.

SH-216

APRIL 14

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD-226

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Navy ship-building programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-562

APRIL 15

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine contracts for Afghan National Police training.

SD-342

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-192

APRIL 28

2 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, focusing on standards and assessments.

SD-430